

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 9, 2005

LB 48, 682, 748

voted on the question who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1422-1423.) Vote is 42 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 5 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 682 passes. Members, that does complete our Final Reading for today. (Visitors introduced.) As stated, we're now on General File. Mr. Clerk, LB 748.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 748 was introduced by Senators Bourne, Kremer, Synowiecki, and Janssen. (Read title.) Bill was read for the first time on January 19 of this year, referred to the Urban Affairs Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File. There are committee amendments. (AM0435, Legislative Journal page 678.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Bourne, you're recognized to open on LB 748.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'm sure many of you have heard about LB 748 and the following bill, I guess it's LB 48. It's trying to make sense out of the gas situation in the state of Nebraska and I think it'd be fair to characterize it as pitting, perhaps, the public utility versus the investor-owned utilities, and, quite honestly, I'm not sure that either one of those bills is the right answer, but there's where we are. I'll tell you what LB 748 does. It was brought to me by the League of Municipalities, the cities of Hastings, Central City, the Nebraska Power Pool, and the Metropolitan Utility District in Omaha. The purpose of LB 748 is to ensure that Nebraskans continue to receive the quality service and low rates that they have come to expect from locally governed utilities. LB 748 seeks to accomplish this and clarify the laws that govern local utilities. First, the bill makes clear that a natural gas utility owned by a city, village, or metropolitan utilities district is not subject to the State Natural Gas Regulation Act. These entities are already governed by local boards and councils. Second, the bill makes clear that utilities owned and operated by political subdivisions are not under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission. These